

BOOK NOTICES

BERNARD K. MALONEY. (editor). 1998. **Human Activities and the Tropical Rainforest: Past, Present, and Possible Future.** (ISBN 0-7923-4858-3, hbk.). Kluwer Academic Publishers, P.O. Box 17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands. (Orders: Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, 101 Philip Drive, Norwell, MA 02061, U.S.A. US\$142.00, hbk., 206 pp., figures, 6 1/2" × 9 1/2".

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This is an important contribution to the scientific understanding of the human impact on Neotropical Rainforests. This text would work well in ethnobiology and conservation biology graduate courses. It encompasses a broad geographic scheme and takes on the subject matter with an interdisciplinary approach. Future editions would be improved by including a subject index. I would recommend this book to researchers interested in the human aspect to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. —Kevin D. Janni, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., kjanni@brit.org.*

S.H.J.V. RAPANARIVO, J.J. LAVRANOS, A.J.M. LEEUWENBERG, and W. RÖÖSLI. 1999. **Pachypodium (Apocynaceae). Taxonomy, Ecology and Cultivation.** (ISBN 90-5410-485-6, hbk.). A.A. Balkema Publishers, Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036-9704, www.balkema.nl, balkema@balkema.nl, 802-276-3837 fax, 31-10-4135947). \$48.00, 128 pp, 80 color photos.

This taxonomic monographic revision of *Pachypodium* (Apocynaceae) is based on studies of living plants both in the wild and in cultivation. The genus is comprised of 23 species, eight of which are endemic to Madagascar. Other species occur in continental Africa. There is the generic description followed by a key to species is followed by a treatment of species. Each species is treated systematically and includes a line drawing, color photo(s), and a distribution map. Some of the line drawings are a little on the rough side, however, the 80 color photos (plates) are very nice. I find one new combination presented, *Pachyupodium gracilius* (H. Perrier) Rapanarivo, comb. nov. The book is rounded out with a chapter on *Pachypodium* in cultivation followed by an index of exsiccatae, a nice index. —Barney Lipscomb, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., barney@brit.org.*